

1    **Abstract:**

2    An electronic e-mail system where messages contain information carried by digital  
3    watermarks. The digital watermarks are used to control the transmission and/or receipt of  
4    documents transmitted over system. The invention can be used to prevent the accidental  
5    dissemination of information to unauthorized receivers. Furthermore, while no security  
6    system is fool-proof, the present invention helps guards against the intentional, but  
7    unauthorized, dissemination of confidential information to unauthorized receivers.

8

0574341-021501